

Town of Mansfield Traffic Authority
Minutes of the Meeting March 22, 2011

Present: Hart, Jackman, Meitzler, Padick, Hultgren, Green (guest), Baruzzi (guest)

The minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting were reviewed and no corrections made (there was no February meeting).

Pedestrian Awareness Campaign – still no connection with UConn committees looking into this.

72 Mansfield City Road – some changes to the roadway and striping have been completed, but others remain for warmer weather (striping, guardrails).

Pedestrian safety along Route 32 at the Mansfield/Windham town line – No word yet from DOT and WRTD. Hultgren will follow up for the May meeting.

Hillyndale Road, Baxter Road & Hanks Hill Road – waiting for the end of winter to set classifier out to get speed and volume of traffic for these road sections.

Southeast School student drop-off/pickup changes – Baruzzi reported that the proposed changes had been reviewed by the Principal and could be implemented this summer and be effective for the fall. Padick will seek the PZC chairman's approval on the site plan changes and DPW will schedule the work.

Community Center crosswalk lighting – no progress. Hultgren will view prior to the May meeting.

Suggested use of Depot Road parking areas for commuter parking – Padick had drafted a letter and was waiting for edits. He will finish the letter and send it to the DOT transit/commuter lot office in the coming days.

Ravine Road traffic concerns – Karen Green, who owns the property on either side of the gravel section of Ravine road expressed her concerns about unnecessary traffic on Ravine Road, and its speed of travel. Hultgren explained that signage at both ends of the road had been ordered and would be erected soon. Closing (gating) the road in the winter months was discussed as was discontinuing this section of Ravine Road. (Note: GPS directions are using Ravine Road as road to and from UConn. While a correction has been filed on the appropriate web sites, this continues to be a much-too-highly travelled route. Hultgren will contact the Town attorney regarding the winter closure and the discussion will continue at the May meeting.

Guardrail request – Mulberry Road near 110 – Hultgren said he and Kiefer had looked at this area and felt that a few more guideposts should be erected in this area, which would be similar to the other guideposts along this road (which does not have any guardrailings). Hultgren will inform Mr. Fitts of this.

Stop sign at Hunting Lodge and Birch – A temporary sign has been in use at this location this winter and a permanent sign will be re-erected as soon as the call-before-you-dig request clears.

Storrs Center Village Street – the reconfigured village street with some diagonal parking shown through the phase 2 area was reviewed. Authority members agreed with the concept; however, in the phase 3 and 4 areas where diagonal parking was shown on just one side of the street, additional width appears to be

needed (this was forwarded to the designer who agreed and will change this in the next iteration of the plans).

Storrs Center crosswalk at EO Smith front exit driveway – Hultgren briefed members on the Regional School District’s concerns with the location of the proposed crosswalk. Alternative locations were discussed, but locations closer to the actual driveway were clearly less safe than the proposed location on the current plans (the proposed location includes a midway safe point in the end of an island to be constructed in Storrs Road). Hultgren also discussed this with the DOT and the consultants designing the Storrs Road improvements. He will relay this to the Regional Board at its April meeting.

Spring weekend road closures – The authority voted to: 1) Authorize the closure of Hunting Lodge Road, North Eagleville Road and Carriage House Drive from March 22, 2011 through May 1, 2011 for the protection of public health and safety and 2) to authorize the closure of other roads during the same time period as needed for the protection of public health and safety as well.

The starting time for future Traffic Authority meetings was changed from 10:30 to 9:30 AM, still on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren
Director of Public Works